

THE Trumpet

The monthly newsletter of the Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Trumpet—Sept. 2013

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



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*September is
Campus Fire
Safety Month*

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From the Fire Marshal

As the new school year begins, the Office of the State Fire Marshal remains extremely busy as schools, colleges and universities all over the state greet an influx of students. This time of year begins our annual inspections of school facilities and also brings with it a reminder that September is *Campus Fire Safety Month* and that Fire Prevention Week will be October 6-12.

According to *Campus Firewatch*, since 2000 there have been 162 deaths as a result of campus-related fires, with four out of five of these deaths occurring in off-campus homes where a vast majority of the nation's 18,000,000 students live. Education and awareness are vital to stopping this tragic loss of life; so I urge you to take advantage of the information in this issue of *The Trumpet* and on our website.

In addition, I would like to recognize and thank Governor Brownback for his strong support of this Office and the Kansas Fire Service, and for his unwavering commitment to fire and life safety of all Kansans. The Governor demonstrated his commitment by signing a proclamation designating September as *Campus Fire Safety Month* in an effort to increase public awareness, specifically among students and their parents.

Although it has been busy, I continue to make every effort to get around the state as often as possible to attend functions, meet with local fire service officials and organizations and watch my staff at work. We continue to work hard to build a strong and positive partnership with all the fire services in the state, and stand ready to assist you to improve fire and life safety in Kansas.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen



September 2013



Fire Marshal

Doug Jorgensen

Editor

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Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal *Trumpet* or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Kevin Doel. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

By the Numbers

In 2012, 64 firefighters died while on-duty in the U.S.—the second consecutive year with a total below 65 deaths. The largest share of deaths (21) occurred while firefighters were operating at fires.

Source: NFPA

60% of home fire deaths resulted from fires in which no smoke alarms were present or in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate.

Source: NFPA

Eighty-eight percent of university housing fires are cooking fires.

Source: *National Data Fire Center*



HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

Welcome Randy DeShon to Fire Prevention Team

We would like to welcome Randy DeShon to our staff. He is our new Fire Prevention Supervisor. He brings to us his past 29 years of experience in public service. Randy retired from the City of St. Joseph MO fire department in 2007 after nearly 23 years of service. He moved to Northeast Georgia and worked as a fire and building inspector prior to becoming the Building & Zoning Administrator of Helen, GA in 2012.



Brian Kayser Joins OSFM as Application Developer

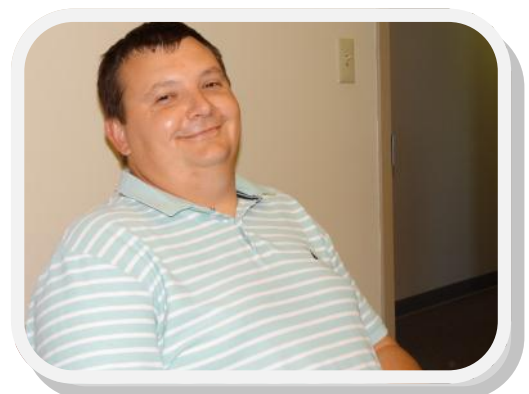


Brian Kayser has joined the OSFM staff as an Application Developer. Brian has been in State service for eight years. He wrote tax collection and case tracking software for the Department of Revenue for seven years. He most recently spent a year with the Department of Agriculture working on licensing software, data analysis, and document management systems. Previously, Brian was a computer programmer in the telecommunications and insurance industries. "I'm excited and proud to be a part of the

State Fire Marshal team. We're doing some exciting things in the agency."

Shane Etzold: New Prevention Inspector in SE Kansas

Shane Etzold has just joined our Fire Prevention Inspection team. A resident of Pittsburg since 2000, Shane will perform facility inspections in the Southeast Kansas area. Most recently, Shane worked as a Safety Specialist for the Kansas Department of Transportation. He is a graduate of Pittsburg State University with a B.S. in Technology Management and a Masters in Human Resource Development. "I'm looking forward to making a local impact by helping people live and work in fire safe facilities."





Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen (far right) joined other officials as Governor Brownback signed a Proclamation declaring September 16-20, 2013 as Kansas School Preparedness Week. This week is sponsored by the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools and its collaborative partners. This week is part of the National Preparedness Month emphasis sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign.



OSFM staff, including Rose Rozmiarek (Chief of Investigations), Doug Jorgensen (Fire Marshal), Becky Bahr (Chief Financial Officer) and Brenda McNorton (Chief of Prevention), participated in the Kansas State of Kansas Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise. The exercise simulated a situation in which a circumstances such as a disaster or cyber-attack caused the office to move to an off-site facility to ensure our office was prepared to continue operating.



Order your own
commemorative
Challenge Coin at
FireMarshal.ks.gov

Nominations Still Being Accepted for Tom McGaughey Award

In 1971, in memory of Chief Tom McGaughey, who died during the line of duty in November 1968, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Kansas State Firefighters Association adopted the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award to be presented to the fire department and the firefighter or firefighters whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of duty.



Chief Tom McGaughey

Nominations for the 2013 calendar year are being accepted now. Nominations should be in the form of a letter that includes the details of the incident, and the name or names of the firefighters you wish to nominate for bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty. Additional documentation, including pictures, video and/or news media articles will help support and justify your nominations. The deadline for accepting nominations is **September 13, 2013**.

Send nominations to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Attention: Tom McGaughey Award
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714

Vital Lesson for College Students: Be Fire Safe!



To raise awareness of the need for students and faculty to take fire safety seriously, Governor Sam Brownback has declared September as **Campus Fire Safety Month**.

*Since January 2000,
162 people have died
in campus-related fires*

The beginning of a new school year means classes, friends, sporting events, activities and parties. With such hectic lives, college students often don't pay attention to one thing that could kill them: accidental fires. As the new school year begins, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) wants to remind students to take action to protect themselves and their friends from fire.

According to *Campus Firewatch*, since 2000 there have been 162 deaths as a result of campus-related fires, with four out

of five of these deaths occurring in off-campus homes, where a vast majority of the nation's 18,000,000 students live.

The common factors associated with a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption
- Fires originating on upholstered furniture or decks or porches

"Many college students do not realize how quickly a fire can occur, and perhaps for the first time in their lives they are the ones in charge of ensuring they are living in a fire-safe environment," said Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal. "Students need to realize that they are not invincible, that fires do happen, and that they can take steps to protect themselves – no matter where they live."

For more tips on fire safety, visit the OSFM's website at www.FireMarshal.ks.gov.



Every college student or parent who has sent a child off to college should watch the *9 Fires* documentary available for viewing on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fires).

9 Fires is the story of nine campus-related fires across the nation that happened within a three week period in January and February 2012. It tells "the rest of the story," of the impact that these fires had on the families, the survivors, the schools and the community.

Classroom Barriers **By Mende Barnett, Education Consultant**

Active shooter information and prevention have been a hot topic with our office. From Sandy Hook to the more recent Georgia inci-

rated barrier-of-entry door. Its design is to make every classroom a safe room.

The problem with these types

easily accessible? Can a teacher get the door unlocked with one motion?

Active shooter drills are on



Classroom Side
Simply slide into position



Classroom Side
One Simple Action



Classroom Side
Automatically locks

dents we all are looking at ways to keep our kids safe. In doing so, we are finding that even though this type of safety is important from keeping intruders out of the classrooms we also have to allow the “good guys” in the classrooms in case of a fire or other emergency.

DAW TECH is a supplier of controlled environment solutions. They have designed the [S.O.B Classroom Barrier](#) that is best described as a ballistic

of doors is the variable factors that are involved. They are not approved classroom doors. If a facility was to use this as a corridor door it would need to meet the code for that purpose. IFC 1017.1 states that an Education Occupancy Type should have a one hour fire rated corridor door without a sprinkler.

Another concern would be the type of lock being used on these types of doors. Is it

the rise after all these events have taken place and having an Emergency Response Plan in place is important to all involved. It is up to each individual facility to prepare, plan and execute such plans. Homeland Security offers a [90 minute webinar](#) and other resource material available to help private and public sectors understand the importance of developing an emergency response plan.

Fast Facts on Campus Fires



- An estimated 3,800 university housing fires occur each year in the United States.
- University housing fires occur most frequently in the late Summer and fall, peaking in September at 12%.
- Smoke alarms were present in 85% of non-confined fires in occupied university housing.

Considerations for the Design and Construction of Temporary Construction Barriers

By Brian Love, Fire Protection Specialist

Construction projects in, or near, occupied buildings create an elevated hazard and a unique set of circumstances which are often overlooked or under-planned. Of those hazards, the most important are those that shield the occupants from the hazards inher-



ent to any construction site and safely exiting building occupants in emergencies, all while avoiding additional hazards. Most building codes are disturbingly silent, or at a minimum vague, when defining temporary separation requirements, though requirements are present in NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, IBC, IFC, as well as most other commonly used construction codes and standards. In this short narrative we will not attempt to explain all prescriptive code requirements, but instead, to assist you in better understanding temporary barriers.

Construction projects must have some form of a physical separation installed between building occupants and the construction area. These construction barriers, if improperly designed, constructed, or placed, often create more risk than benefit. Construction barriers, even as temporary structures, must be constructed properly. Temporary separation must be of equal or greater flame resistance as the permanent structure. In a non-

combustible building, temporary construction barriers must be of non-combustible materials. In buildings where flame spread ratings in corridors are limited to Class A, so must the temporary barriers constructed within those corridors.

A “common sense” approach to the design and construction of temporary separations usually will avoid many common errors. The following should be utilized as a tool when planning for temporary barriers.

Remember, first and foremost, we are creatures of habit. If I have exited this building every day, the same way, for the past two years - through the same corridor – through the same exit door – then over the same sidewalk – then you had better make it crystal clear why today is any different. Exit signs must be planned for the temporary path of egress. Staff must be trained and, where possible, the building occupants should be trained and practiced on the new path of egress.

Minimum requirements for corridor width do not lessen during construction or renovation. Required width does not lessen

during construction. Exit width calculations for facilities being renovated are normally figured “as-built”. This said, if corridors and passageways are narrowed due to construction, a “bottleneck” may form, putting occupants at increased risk. In healthcare facilities, exit width is assumed to accommodate hospital beds passing in the halls, this

feature cannot be negated to accommodate temporary barrier walls being constructed within the corridor.

During an emergency, if I see daylight at a locked exit, I’m not going to continue following signs leading me down other dark, smoky corridors to the exit the architect thinks I should use. Though not mentioned in code, this is a theory that deserves a degree of respect. Where possible, cover exit doors to restrict daylight and recognition as an exterior door when they are inaccessible due to construction. If the occupants don’t see what they believe to be their means of escape, then they will continue to follow the designated route.

Normal illumination requirements and emergency illumination requirements are not lessened just because the path of egress is temporary. The temporary path of egress should be as bright, if not brighter, than the normal exits. It is not in the nature of the occupants to choose a dark path over a well-lit path, especially during an emergency.

Fire alarm requirements apply the same

(Cont’d on page 9)



Blue Ribbon Inspections

Lansing Correctional Facility,
Lansing

I would like to acknowledge Lansing Correctional Facility in Leavenworth County for their effort regarding the fire inspection in August 2013. The scope of the inspection was for detention, industrial, storage and other occupancy types typical in a large correctional complex. There were 46 separate buildings inspected and the Fire Safety Officer as well as the correctional staff worked diligently on preparing these buildings for inspection and the result was that no deficiencies were cited for the entire complex.

Larry Scott
Fire Prevention Inspector

EUREKA! Two great inspections in Eureka,
Kansas

I would like to recognize two businesses in Eureka, Kansas for their excellent Blue Ribbon inspections.



Lansing Correctional Facility

umentation!

Great job to both of these excellent companies.

Scott Toomey
Fire Prevention Inspector

Vintage Park and New Beginnings both had zero deficiencies on their inspections. I would also like to recognize Vintage Park for being such a clean facility, and New Beginnings for the great job they have done with doc-

Considerations (cont'd from page 8)

in temporary egress corridors as they do in permanent installations. Where fire alarm audio/visual devices are required, they must be installed in the temporary passages also. Where voice signaling systems are utilized, it must be assured that adequate volumes are present at all points within the temporary egress. Where manual pull stations are required to activate the fire alarm, they must also be provided within the temporary egress.

Practice-practice-practice. When means of egress are changed, it's time for a fire drill. As we discussed earlier, we creatures of habit must practice anything we do to be proficient at it. Whether fire drills are

due, required, monotonous, annoying, burdensome, or any other excuse, they must be done to familiarize the staff and building occupants to the temporary egress. Not unlike any "regular" fire drills, the performance of the occupants as well as the performance of the building should be critiqued and changes made where necessary. Even if the temporary path of egress looked like it should work on the blueprints, the true test is when the alarm sounds.

Temporary egress and construction separation plans must be designed, reviewed and constructed as phases of any multi-phase project. When temporary egress plans are submitted for review, it is mandatory that they coincide with the con-

OSFM to Sponsor Fire Safety Poster Contest

Our office will be sponsoring a statewide Fire Safety Poster Contest in elementary schools across the state.



SCHOOLS and FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Keep your eyes open for information on how you can participate in this contest during the month of October.

REMEMBER!

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12! This will be a great opportunity to educate children on how to keep themselves and their families safe from fire!

struction phases that they are designed to accommodate. It must be understood by all involved; that phasing plans must incorporate the temporary egress plans to be utilized during each phase.

While this article doesn't attempt to describe prescriptive code requirements or all standards applicable to a specific occupancy type, it is intended to provide a general overview of what makes temporary egress function safely. Representatives of the Office of the State Fire Marshal can always be made available for questions specific to individual projects and circumstances.

Investigation Intern Program

By Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigation Division

Starting in 2003 the Office of the State Fire Marshal started partnering with Washburn University's Criminal Justice Department in providing hands on experience and life training for college students. One of the ways college students can experience what their college education and career path can provide them is through internships at actual law enforcement agencies. Most of the students from Washburn that intern with the OSFM are seniors who are about ready to go into the professional workforce. The majority of the interns have come from Washburn but we have also had a couple from Emporia State University and a graduate student from a university in New Jersey. The OSFM has had a couple of dozen interns since the partnership was formed and a good many of them have gone on to law enforcement positions. A couple of interns are employed locally and a couple actually have gone on to the Federal level and work at the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. It is a good to know that the experience the interns receive has had some influence on their career path.

Some of the tasks the interns may be exposed to are actual fire and explosive scenes, interview processes, autopsies viewing, and case development. They may also attend courtroom trial processes and in-service training attended by members of the investigation division. We try to expose them to as many diverse tasks and assignments as possible. The interns will also be exposed to the administrative side of the office with filing, computer work, and other tasks. They are treated as if they are an actual employee of the agency minus the pay and benefits of course. If the division has a project that needs extra attention then the intern is also tasked with working on those assignments. If there is no project we will ask if there is a project or research they would like to work on.

To participate in the intern program the applicant must first coordinate with their university and then contact our agency. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the information they will need to have a background check completed and be free of any felony or major misdemeanor crimes. It is up to the intern and their university on the number of hours and credits they complete. Most interns will complete six credit hours which is 240 contact hours during the semester.

Investigation Update:

Man Pleads No Contest in Arson of Home



News by WIBW TV in Topeka: A Topeka man pleaded no contest to setting fire to his home.

Shawnee County Court records show Brett Hedrick was convicted of arson—property damage. In exchange for his plea, four other counts were dropped, including a second arson charge, insurance fraud and filing a false report.

Hedrick and his wife, Jammie, were both charged in May for an October 2010 fire at their then-home on Southeast Rice Road.



Meet Jordan Mills, Investigation Intern

Jordan Mills, a senior Criminal Justice major at Washburn University, has begun his semester as the intern for the OSFM Investigation Division. Jason is a 2009 graduate of Washburn Rural High School in Topeka.

When he graduates in 2014, Jason definitely wants to pursue his career in law enforcement, though through the classes he has taken he enjoys the investigation field the most.

"I've always had an interest in law enforcement since I was a little kid," Jason says. "After taking some criminal justice classes, I became more interested in the investigation side of law enforcement as a career."

Through his internship with the OSFM, Jason is most looking forward to going out with investigators on fire scenes to watch the investigators at work.

What Kansans Need to Know About Radon

By Dan Thompson, Chief of Haz-Mat Division

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

You can't see radon, you can't smell it or taste it, but it may be a problem in your home. Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. today.

Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. So, if you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is even higher.

Radon can be found all over the U.S.

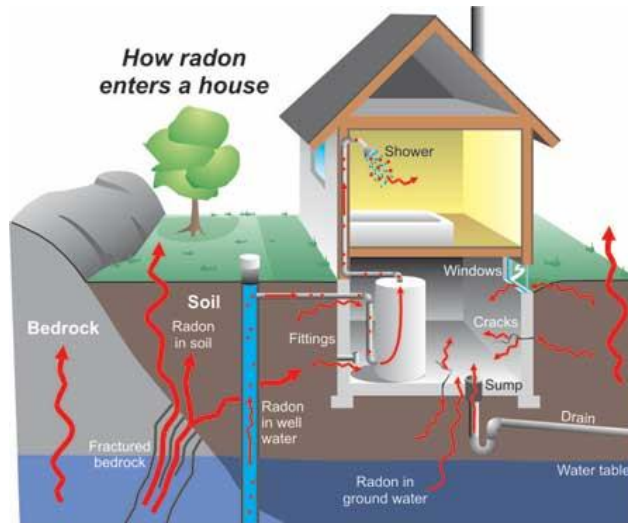
Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. It can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building - homes, offices, and schools - and result in a high indoor radon levels. You're most likely to get your greatest exposure at home where you spend most of your time.

You should test for radon.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. EPA also recommends testing in schools. Testing is inexpensive and easy — it should only take a few minutes of your time. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon. See the —how to test your home below for information on testing your home.

How does radon get into your home?

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural decay of uranium, found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and



into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem, old or new homes, well-sealed or drafty homes, even homes with or without basements. Radon from soil gas is the main cause of radon problems but sometimes it enters through well water. In some homes, the building materials can give off radon, however, building materials rarely cause radon problems by themselves.

It gets into your home through 1) cracks in solid floors, 2) construction joints, 3) cracks in walls, 4) gaps in suspended floors, 5) gaps around service pipes, 6) cavities inside walls, or 7) the water supply.

Radon in Water

There are two main sources for the radon in your home's indoor air, soil and water supply. Radon entering your home through the soil is usually a much larger risk, however radon in your water supply

does pose an inhalation and ingestion risk. Most of your risk from water comes from that released into the air when water is used for showering and other household purposes.

Radon in your home's water is not usually a problem when its source is surface water. A radon in water problem is more likely from ground water whether from a public water supply or private well. If your water comes from a public water supply, contact your water supplier, if you have a private well that supplies your home, you may want to test that supply for radon. If found, radon in water can be treated effectively treated in two ways.

How to Test Your Home

Even though radon can't be seen, it's not hard to test your home to find out if you have a radon problem. Testing is easy and should only take a few minutes of your time.

The amount of radon in the air is measured in "picocuries per liter of air," or "pCi/L". There are many low-cost "do-it-yourself" radon test kits you can get through the mail and in some hardware stores and other retail outlets. If you prefer, or if you are buying or selling a home, you can hire a qualified tester to do the testing for you. You should first contact your state radon office about obtaining a list of qualified testers. You can also contact a private radon proficiency program for lists of privately certified radon professionals serving your area. For links and information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Environmental Health manages the Kansas Radon Program. For more information check out their website at www.kdheks.gov/

Help Make the Fallen Firefighter Memorial a Reality!



In 2001 legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica is housed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal where it is on view.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger, DFM
700 SW Harrison, Room 1015
Topeka, KS 66603

Get your own

**Commemorative
Challenge Coin**

**Celebrating 100 Years
of the
State Fire Marshal!**



Order your own commemorative Challenge Coin at FireMarshal.ks.gov